

# ParentInfo

News for a child's  
most important educator

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Your child can have a voice in  
Kentucky education



Children can write to candidates  
for chance to win prizes



The Kentucky  
Department of  
Education is moving



*All photos by KDE unless otherwise noted*

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## Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators?  
A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes  
place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday.  
To participate or just follow the  
conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.



# Your child can have a voice in Kentucky education

Public school students in grades 10-12 are invited to apply for membership on the Commissioner's Student Council, an advisory group that provides input and feedback to Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt. The council also is designed to engage student leaders in learning by doing.

The group will meet with the commissioner and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky. Members will provide feedback – from a student perspective – on critical issues impacting Kentucky students and schools.

The council seeks students with innovative ideas and thoughtful insight into how schools and student achievement can be improved. Students who represent the diverse academic, geographic, demographic and school-size variables particular to Kentucky are encouraged to apply, including students enrolled in career pathways and students at the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf. The application and a list of Frequently Asked Questions are available on the [KDE website here](#).

Interested students should complete and return the application to KDE via postal mail or email. Applications must be received by or postmarked no later than 4:30 p.m. ET, Thursday, Sept. 15.

A committee of KDE representatives will review and score all applications. Appointments to the council will be determined by how well the applicants communicated their ideas and goals.

The council will include two students from each of the seven Kentucky Board of Education districts, and at least one student from the Kentucky School for the Blind, the Kentucky School for the Deaf and a student enrolled in a career and technical education pathway. Students selected for the council have the option to serve consecutive one-year terms as long as they remain eligible to serve. The students selected this year will join seven returning council members.



## Children can write to candidates for chance to win prizes



Your child can have a voice in the political process. Invite him or her to write a letter to the 2016 presidential candidates sharing thoughts on how government can be more effective.

The [PBS LearningMedia 50 for 50 contest](#) is open to students in grades 6-12. Two students – one middle school and one high school – will win a trip to Las Vegas to view the final presidential debate with the media.

All Kentucky students entered in the national 50 for 50 contest also will be automatically entered for the KET's local 50 for 50 sweepstakes.

KET will randomly select two local student winners, one from grades 6-8 and one from grades 9-12. Each winner will receive a Chromebook. Their teachers will also receive a \$250 gift card for their classrooms. Local winners in the KET sweepstakes will be notified by phone or by email to verify eligibility.

Only national contest entries will be eligible for KET's local sweepstakes. All entries must be submitted to PBS by the student's classroom teacher by Sept. 21. Ask your child's teacher to [submit his or her letter](#) by the deadline and read the [contest rules and conditions](#).

# The Kentucky Department of Education is moving

After 44 years in its current location at the Capital Plaza Tower in downtown Frankfort, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is moving.

The agency is relocating to the 300 Building, a new, five-story office space on Sower Boulevard, off the East-West Connector, in Frankfort.

“We are looking forward to the move to our new home,” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt. “This new building will reduce energy costs and provide employees with an inviting work environment. The improved technology will allow staff to better support public schools and districts in Kentucky that are working to provide all of our students with a world-class education that readies them for college, career and life.”

Employees have already begun moving and the entire department will be moved by Sept. 30. While a logistics team is working to minimize staff downtime during the move, there may be a slight delay in returning phone calls or answering emails during the moving period. Staff telephone numbers will remain the same.

The address of the new building is 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY 40601. Mail sent to the current 500 Mero St., Capital Plaza Tower address will be delivered to the new building daily during the transition.

Anyone attending a KDE meeting or visiting a staff member during the six-week move should check the correct location ahead of time.

Construction on the 300 Building

began in March 2015, and was made possible through a public-private partnership. The facility opened in June. The state will lease the building from a management company for 35 years.

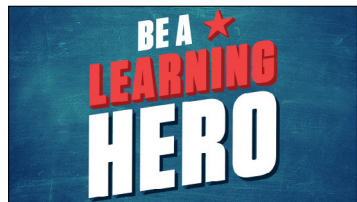
The 371,000-square foot building will house up to 1,457 state employees from KDE, the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

The LEED-certified building is expected to reduce energy consumption by about 20 to 25 percent. Its layout allows for maximum space efficiency while providing areas for both individual and team work.

KDE’s offices have been in the Capital Plaza Tower since 1972.



## Be a learning hero for your child



When it comes to your child’s education, you can be a learning hero. When parents combine their expertise about their child’s interests, habits and personality with an understanding about how to support school-based learning – the sky’s the limit.

Learning Heroes, the National PTA and Scholastic have created the Super 5 for back to school. Parents can check what our students are expected to learn in the new academic year; learn how to know if a child is on track at each level of development; and how to work alongside teachers to support learning.

Use the [Super 5](#) to get started and find the answers to important questions with easy to use resources and videos from Learning Heroes, National PTA, Scholastic and others.



# Attend the 2016 Families Learning Summit

This year's [Families Learning Summit](#) will bring two-generation family engagement to life for hundreds of attendees on Oct. 17-19 in Detroit. The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) has hand-picked [sessions and speakers](#) covering everything from early literacy and adult education, to digital learning, community coalitions and family engagement research.

The summit will include speakers, live learning experiments, national social media experts, networking and sessions featuring the latest in two-generation learning and literacy.

The summit will kick off on Sunday Oct. 16 with [#ParentCampDetroit](#). ParentCamp is a free, half-day “un-conference” for parents, caregivers, school and community leaders and educators. ParentCamp is not a series of scheduled presentations, it's breakout discussions led by the attendees and facilitated by discussion leaders, who help set the tone for collaborative dialogue.

“The world changes so fast, and we all have so little time to do the research to stay up on how to use social media – or what it is – or



what STEM is and why we should care,” said #ParentCamp founder Gwen Pescatore. “Parents don’t need more free hours each day to be a partner in their child’s education; they simply need to tweak what and how they do things already.”

## Parents should know these financial aid terms

As parents begin the college financial aid process to help their high school seniors, they may find themselves faced with unfamiliar terms. This short glossary from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) may help.

- **Conversion scholarship/loan.** This type of scholarship requires students to provide certain services. If they don’t provide the service, the scholarship becomes a loan.
- **Cost of attendance.** The total cost of one year of college: tuition, fees, room, meals, supplies, transportation and personal items.
- **Expected family contribution (EFC).** This is the amount the student and family are expected to pay for the student’s education. It is based on a formula set by Congress.
- **FAFSA.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be submitted by students applying for federal and state aid. The best way to do so is at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
- **Financial need.** The difference between the cost of attendance and the EFC.
- **Institutional aid.** The scholarships, grants and other financial aid programs provided by the college.
- **Verification.** The process of making sure the information submitted

on the FAFSA is correct. The federal government requires colleges to have certain students’ FAFSA information verified.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky’s student financial aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), offers Advantage Loans to help students and parents pay for college or to refinance student loans. For more information about Advantage Loans, visit [www.advantageeducationloan.com](http://www.advantageeducationloan.com).

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com); write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7214.

